

The 4th Forum

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4th Marine Corps District
Building 54, Suite 3
New Cumberland, PA
17070-0806 or
e-mail the staff at:

woosleys@4mcd.usmc.mil
brackmanam@4mcd.usmc.mil
ohare@4mcd.usmc.mil

Marines Drive Boy Scout Jamboree



STORY BY CPL. RYAN O'HARE
4TH MARINE CORPS DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS

FORT A.P. HILL, Va.—Teaching more than 2,000 Boy Scouts basic auto mechanics may seem like an impossible task, but for a group of motivated Marines at the 2001 National Boy Scout Jamboree, it was all in a days work.

The jamboree, held every four years at Fort A.P. Hill Va., brought together over 40,000 Boy Scouts from around the world for two-weeks of scouting adventure.

The Marine Corps has previously participated in the event, but this years jamboree was their biggest involvement yet. Over fifty Marines came from around the Corps to lend a helping hand.

With the help of the Marine Corps and Team Rensi Motor Sports, jamboree scouts were given the opportunity to earn their Auto Mechanics Merit Badge and have a genuine NASCAR pit crew experience.

A giant inflatable drill instructor marked the spot, and scouts lined up around the event waiting for their chance to get their hands dirty.

In order to receive their Auto Mechanics Merit Badge, Boy Scouts completed seven stations. Each station lasted 20 minutes and covered such topics as checking oil, spark plug replacement, and changing a flat tire. General Motors even teamed up with the Marines by donating two new vehicles, giving scouts some hands on experience.

"The cars made a big difference," said Cpl. Phong Nguyen, an administration clerk from Fourth Marine Corps District Headquarters. "It would have been hard to teach the scouts about a cooling system if I wasn't able to show them what I was talking about."

At the end of the cycle, the scouts not only qualified to receive their Auto Mechanics Merit Badge, but were one step away from performing a simulated NASCAR pit stop.

"We wanted to let the scouts experience something really unique this year," said Matt Clark, pit crew coordinator for Team Rensi Motor Sports. "Allowing them to hit some lug nuts on the real Marine NASCAR gave an added level of excitement to our merit badge event."

Scouts were divided into two-man teams and handed pit crew air guns. Once the 'over' signal was shouted, each scout quickly leaped the pit-wall and dropped into position in front of their

tire. Over the roar of screaming air guns, cheers could be heard from the Marines and crowd as each scout raced to loosen and tighten each lug nut as fast as he could.

"That was really cool," said Ryan Shearer, a Life Scout with troop 614 from Idaho Falls. "I like to watch NASCAR on television. Those guys make it look a lot easier than it is. I liked that we got to use the real tools and meet some of the pit crew guys. It was definitely the coolest merit badge I've earned."



PHOTO BY SGT. PAUL ANSTINE

Troop 614 Boy Scouts from Idaho Falls, jump over the pit wall and loosen the lug nuts on the Team Marines NASCAR. This was the final station of the Auto Mechanics Merit Badge at the 2001 National Boy Scout Jamboree.

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Twins Welcomed Into New Family

STORY AND PHOTO BY SGT. M. NIMAN
RS FREDERICK MPA

FREDERICK, Md. – The month was May and the school year was about to wrap up. Spring was still in the air, but anticipation of summer had not gone unnoticed. It seemed to be a normal day at Damascus High School as 18-year-old high-school junior Carla Hopwood sat in her band class.

Little did Hopwood know, that day would start a chain of events that would lead to two members of the Hopwood family becoming part of another family, the United States Marines.

In walked, Staff Sgt. Jarkera Gross, Damascus High's Marine Corps Recruiter. High school bands are often visited by organizations pitching opportunities in music. Gross' presentation was an interesting look into an organization that has more to offer than concerts and rehearsals.

"I portray the Marine Corps as the best in the world," said Gross, who draws on 10 years of experience to paint pictures of life as a Marine to new prospective Marines.

"I find that there are a lot of misconceptions about the military," added Gross. "Some only know what they have seen on 'Saving Private Ryan' and on television."

"Knowing this, I put my all into each and every presentation to make sure everyone gets all the information they need," said Gross.

After hearing Gross' presentation, Carla approached the proud Marine for more knowledge about the Marine Corps.

"It was the way he spoke of the Marine Corps," Carla confessed. "He really sparked an interest for me."

Ironically, it was Carla's twin brother Carl who was first leaning toward military service.

"I was originally looking at the Air Force or the Navy," said Carl, who sat in with his mother Netilda during Gross' personal presentation to his sister Carla. After hearing Gross, the family agreed that the Corps

was a smart choice, especially when Netilda found out that her multi-talented twins will have a chance to branch out in different areas of the Corps. Both Carl and Carla performed well enough on the ASVAB to qualify for many of the Marine Corps most technically skilled jobs.

Two weeks after meeting their recruiter, Carl and Carla Hopwood were sworn in to the Marine Corps Delayed Entry Program.

Both poolers are avid athletes, boasting positions on their school's basketball and track and field teams as well as other extra-curricular activities.

The pair proudly boasts that they took the challenge and are now a part the Corps' Delayed Entry Program. The next step in their goal of becoming Marines is to make their marks as Damascus seniors and to uphold the high standards and traditions of Marines before them.



Staff Sgt. Jarkera Gross, Marine Recruiter for Damascus High School in Damascus, MD, stands flanked by the Corps' new family members, Carl and Carla Hopwood. Gross said the Hopwood's really related to his life experiences.

JAMBOREE Cont'd from Page 1

The Auto Mechanics Merit Badge wasn't the only event Marines participated in during the jamboree. There was also a presentation called 'Scoutopia.' This 90-minute show instilled and reinforced not only the values of the Boy Scouts but of the Marine Corps as well. At the end of each performance, scouts took an oath to uphold these values and signed their name to the 'Wall of Commitment.'

In the hundreds of events at the jamboree, The

Marines brought something unique to the lives of each scout who participated. When the jamboree finally came to a close, scouts went home not only with their merit badges, but also with a strong sense of values taught by the Marines.

"Everyone loved what the Marine Corps did here," said David Eye Sr., a troop leader from Stafford, Va. "It was very impressive and the hands on experience it gave the scouts was something really unique. I know everyone had a great time and look forward to returning again."

Bulldogs Prep For Football Season: Marine Corps Style

STORY AND PHOTOS BY SGT. JIM GOODWIN
RS LOUISVILLE

HAZARD, Ky. — At the end of another day of football camp, Hazard High School's football players were just about to turn in for the evening to their makeshift racks in the school's gymnasium.

It's 12:30 a.m., Aug. 2, and the 25 plus students preparing for the school's upcoming football season have just finished a week long, exercise-filled practice to prepare them for the 2001-02 football season. And they only have one more day left of the rigorous training.

As the lights go out for the evening, the athletes begin to relax, prepare for bed; they begin to let their guard down to catch some "Z's."

But that "finally, the day is over" sense, which has overcome most of the players, is just an illusion. What the players don't realize is that their coach, Maurice Dickson, has called in the Marines for some last-minute training to reinforce a winning attitude.

"Every year we try to have a different theme for the football season," said Dickson, who decided to bring in the Marines after fellow coach Sparkman made the comment, 'the Few, the Proud,' due to the



Lance Cpl. Chad Rouse barks orders at a Hazard High School Football player at nearly 1 a.m. Aug. 2nd during the Bulldogs' football camp. The Bulldogs' coach called in the Marines for some end of camp training.

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Gunnery Sgt. Fred Ellis, Jr., yells at a Hazard football player, for being the last one to get his shoes on in time. Ellis and his Marines made a wake up call to the school's football team on the final day of their training camp to motivate them.

Rumsfeld: Changes for the Military are likely

STORY BY LANCE CPL. JOHN LAWSON III
HEADQUARTERS MARINE CORPS

THE PENTAGON—Changes in American military strategy, changes in the size of America's military, modernization of military equipment, and quality of life for military personnel were among the topics Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld addressed during a "town hall meeting" at the Pentagon.

While emphasizing his desire to make changes, Secretary Rumsfeld also stressed that political and budgetary realities will have a lot to do with the structure and use of America's military in the years to come.

The Department of Defense is currently in a period of study and analysis. Every four years it must give Congress a review of strategy and budgets. The next review is due early this fall. Military personnel, DoD employees, and those who follow defense policies have raised many questions while waiting to see what direction military policy will take.

Military personnel and DoD employees in the auditorium, as well as those watching on TV and communicating by fax or e-mail, had a chance to ask Secretary Rumsfeld questions.

In answering those questions, and in a prepared statement that he delivered at the beginning of the meeting, Secretary Rumsfeld sketched out his aims and concerns.

"Our forces and our equipment have been, in a sense, overused," he said. America currently finds itself with a "force-strategy mismatch." The United States must decrease the demands it makes on the military or beef up its forces, Secretary Rumsfeld said. Exactly what will happen on the force-strategy question is still under review, he added. Secretary Rumsfeld's advisers are examining what America does worldwide, country by country and operation by operation.

Deployments to global hot spots can advance America's policies and give the military valuable training, Secretary Rumsfeld said. At some point, however, the deployments start to get out of hand. "It has to be done at a level that's rational," he said.

Many observers identify Secretary Rumsfeld with ballistic missile defense, but he noted that military

hardware isn't the only realm that presents opportunities for modernization.

He identified Information Technology as a crucial area for improvement.

"I can't imagine anyone picking two or three top priorities and not including that one," he said.

Currently, he said, DoD is "a long way" from the cutting edge of Information Technology. He said this must change because we are and will continue to be "very dependent on information and situational awareness."

At the same time, he noted, keeping abreast of technology is a constant race that has no finish line. "It's moving so fast - technology does - that we will never be perfect," he said.

Secretary Rumsfeld also said the infrastructure that sustains the military on a daily basis and all the peripheral ingredients that give personnel a high quality of life are in need of major attention. He cited a recent visit to some military housing.

"I went down there and looked at some of these houses, and it is just terrible," he said. He raised the possibility that some sort of partnership with the private sector could eliminate what he characterized as the "disgraceful" current situation.

Many people are eagerly or perhaps anxiously awaiting concrete answers to the questions that face the military today, but predicting exactly what will happen is tricky business. Secretary Rumsfeld illustrated this point while answering a question about base closings.

He said it is "unwise" and "imprudent" to spend money on unnecessary bases instead of improved weapons. The political realities of reducing the number of bases, however, make it impossible to foresee what money can be freed up and what money will remain tied to bases.

As defense policy moves from the present to the future, Secretary Rumsfeld said he is planning on a departure from business as usual.

"If you talk about change, it makes people nervous," he noted. However, while people prefer the familiar to the unfamiliar, improvement is impossible without change, he said.

"What's wrong with change?" he asked. "We ought to be able to do better."



OFFICIAL US ARMY PHOTO

Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld

Parris Island Receives Brother/Sister Teams

STORY AND PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. BRENDA BAVAS
MCRD PARRIS ISLAND

PARRIS ISLAND, Sc.—Leaving family to go to boot camp can be very difficult, but for two future Marines the transition was made easier when these two brought their siblings with them.

Lurenza Clincy and Caroline Cordry decided they were destined to be Marines. Convincing their sister and brother, respectively, to join was a piece of cake they said.

Lurenza grew up on several Marine Corps bases, including Camp Lejeune, where he witnessed the pride the Marines have.

"I just couldn't see myself in any other uniform, Marines wear it so proudly," said Lurenza. "My older sister, Karenza felt the same way. She decided to leave college and come with me."

Karenza discovered her brother's decision to don Marine Corps dress blues and began her own research. Her lifelong dream was to become an FBI agent. Through her research, she learned that Marines train some of the FBI agents, and host their academy in Quantico.

"When I realized they trained the FBI," said Karenza. "I knew I could become a Marine and then become an FBI agent. Now, I am accomplishing two of my dreams."

The Marine Corps is no stranger to the two. Their father, a retired master gunnery sergeant, served twenty years and departed for Parris Island, S.C. on the same day as his children exactly 30 years prior. Their mother, Carolyn, is very proud of her brother/sister team.

"Out of all my children, these two are the ones I could picture going," she said. "They have always been strong minded. I know they will do well and I couldn't be prouder."

For Caroline Cordry, it took little convincing her brother. "I was talking to the recruiter for a couple of months trying to find a good job in the Marines," said Caroline. "I told my brother what I was doing and he joined the (delayed entry program) before I did."

Richard Cordry says his little sister just pointed him in the right direction. "When I saw what she was doing, I took a look at my own situation," said Richard. "I have a wife and a 2-year-old daughter. I don't think I am going to do right by them working in a grocery store my whole life."

Caroline is ecstatic her brother decided to join with her.

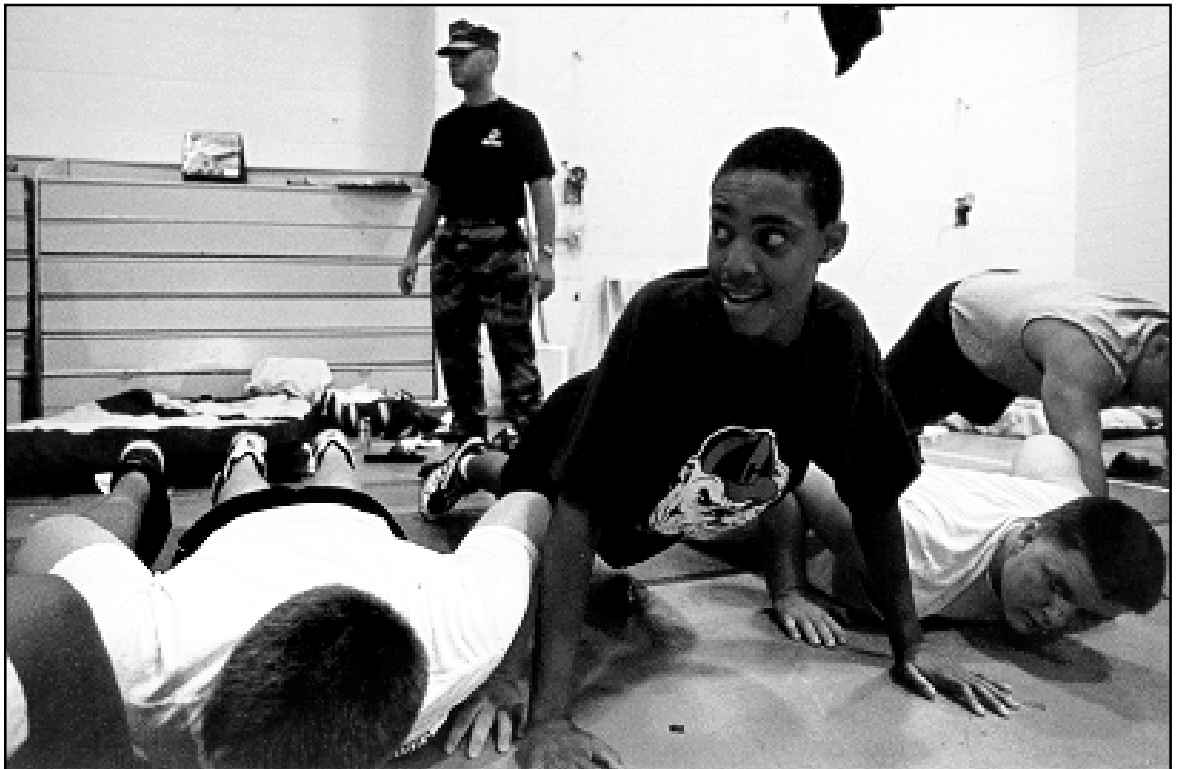
"We are leaving together," said Caroline. "That means we can motivate each other through. We will be doing the same things at the same time. Knowing that you have someone close to you going through the same experience somehow makes it seem not so bad."

Richard shares his sister's sentiment. He says that motivating each other will ensure they graduate together. They feel that seeing each other in church will also help them through.

All four of the young men and women have one thing in common - their desire to become Marines. They all look forward to graduating in late August and marching across the parade deck with their siblings.



Richard and Caroline Cordry, along with Karenza and Lurenza Clincy, share one last moment together, June 6, at the Atlanta Military Entrance Processing Station, before departing for Parris Island, S.C.



PUSH, UP! Several Hazard High football players wait to receive the next command of action from the Marines.

BULLDOGS cont'd from Page 3

Bulldogs' small numbers this year. Calling in the Marines from RSS London, Ky., was a way for Dickson and his staff to boost morale amongst the players – to show them that success is a matter of quality in the players, not the quantity of players.

"I said, 'Great, let's call 'em,'" said Dickson. "We know the baddest person in the world is the U.S. Marine."

Before they have finished settling into their racks, the athletes are startled by the lights being turned back on, and by the three Marines who have entered the compound, barking orders like watchdogs released on an unsuspecting private property trespasser.

The Marines are local recruiters who have come to brandish some last minute training, Marine Corps style.

"Hurry up, get on line! Any day, ladies, let's go!" yells Gunnery Sgt. Fred Ellis, Jr., Hazard's Marine Corps recruiter, who led the ensemble.

"Get on line! Move, move! Assume the position of attention! Hurry up!" bark the others.

Before they have time to realize what's hit them, the athletes scramble to their feet, stand side-by-side on line, and try to follow the orders as best they can at nearly one o'clock in the morning.

"We saw a little bit of fear and shock in them when we came through that gym, but they adapted to it," said Ellis.

After completing some disciplinary exercises, such as pushups and leg lifts, for not responding fast enough to their commands, Ellis, a Harlan, Ky., native himself,

concluded the 25-minute ordeal with a formation jog around the football field, complete with cadence.

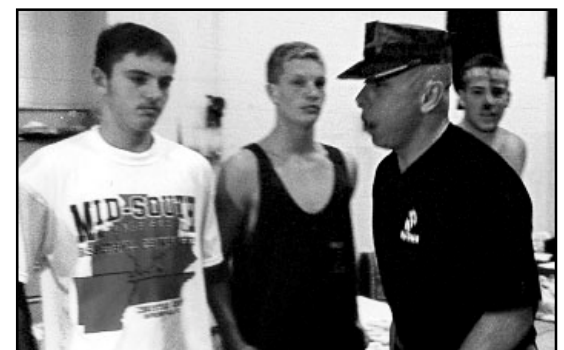
"You have one mission, and that's to win football games," said Ellis to the Bulldogs following the evening's events. "Now, I need a free ticket to the state championships, and I want you to get it for me."

Ellis and fellow Marines Staff Sgt. David Rosol and Lance Cpl. Chad Rouse passed out Marine Corps T-shirts to the players to remind them of what they learned at the end of the ordeal: "You'll only lose if you quit," said Ellis.

"They're [Marines] super individuals, wonderful human beings, and I really think they've opened some eyes out here," said Dickson.

Ellis said he plans on attending the Bulldog's games where he can to re-motivate them.

"I'll tell you this much. You just might see me again," said Ellis to the squad.



Ellis make his rounds while the Bulldogs wait on line for their next command.

Personal Awards for July

Meritorious Service Medal

MGySgt. J.C. Williams
MSgt. J.E. Maclean

Navy Marine Corps Commendation Medal

MSgt. V.H. Price
GySgt. R.D. Ingram

Navy Marine Corps Achievement Medal

GySgt. K.L. Dowdy
GySgt. T.E. Grim
SSgt. M.M. Compton
SSgt. M. Thompson
SSgt. J.A. Best Jr.
SSgt. W.D. McDonald

Commanding Officer Certificate of Commendation

SSgt. J.F. Allen
SSgt. D.A. Patterson
SSgt. R.W. Black
SSgt. M.J. Helman
Sgt. M.J. Lawrence
Sgt. B.D. Wilborn
Sgt. H.H. Kindrick
Sgt. J.M. Wittenmyer

Welcome Aboard

GySgt. K.W. Hagy,
RS Charleston
GySgt. S.J. Schobel III,
RS Richmond
SSgt. W.A. McCall,
RS Baltimore
SSgt. J.A. Ferguson,
RS Troy
SSgt. D.E. Senft Jr.,
RS Harrisburg
SSgt. C.E. Earwood,
RS Charleston
SSgt. J.G. Stickles,
RS Charleston
Sgt. R.L. Peterson,
RS Louisville
Sgt. T.S. Wiley,
RS Louisville
Cpl. K.L. Thomas,
RS Cleveland
Cpl. J.R. Cicero Jr.,
RS Troy



Recruiter Awards for July

Recruiter
of the Month
SSgt. Thorn
RS Charleston

RS of the Month
RS Cleveland

2-Man RSS
of the month
Sgt. Morgan
RS Louisville

3-Man RSS
of the month
GySgt. Cress
RS Harrisburg

4-Man RSS
of the month
GySgt. Gross
RS Harrisburg

5-Man RSS
of the month
GySgt. Smith
RS Richmond

6-Man RSS
of the month
GySgt. Dowdy
RS Frederick

4MCD Rankings FYTD

RS Cleveland
RS Richmond
RS Troy
RS Harrisburg
RS Baltimore
RS Frederick
RS Louisville
RS Charleston